

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY (U 133-W), for an order authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$19,826,100 or 29.72% in the year 2003; by \$6,327,800 or 7.31% in the year 2004; and by \$6,326,200 or 6.81% in the year 2005 in its Region III Service Area and increased rates for the General Office Allocation in all of its Customer Service Areas in this Application including: Arden-Cordova, Bay Point, Clearlake, Los Osos, Ojai, Santa Maria, Simi Valley and Metropolitan.

Application 02-11-007
(Filed November 4, 2002)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
ON REQUESTS TO INTERVENE**

On March 3, 2003, the City of San Dimas (City) filed a petition to intervene in the above-captioned proceeding, requesting that it be granted party status for the purpose of filing and participating in future hearings. On March 10, 2003, Southern California Water Company (SCWC) filed a statement of non-opposition to the City's request, provided the City agrees to abide by the schedule already established in this proceeding. No other party responded to the City's petition.

The City is a fully incorporated city located 40 miles east of Los Angeles with a population of approximately 35,000. SCWC currently provides water services to the City for all its residential and commercial needs. SCWC's proposal in this proceeding would increase water rates in the City's Customer Service Area (CSA) by 31.02% in 2003, 0.66% in 2004, and 6.12% in 2005. In order

to better represent the interest of its citizens, the City would like the opportunity to present evidence on its own behalf and cross-examine given testimony. In its petition, the City identified three main areas of concern, including (1) the impact of the regionalization of rates, (2) justification for SCWC's proposed rate of return, and (3) the high level of rates when compared to that of surrounding cities. These concerns have previously been identified as issues in the Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling of February 28, 2003. The City's participation will not alter the established scope and schedule for this proceeding. Its request to intervene should be granted.

I also received a letter dated February 26, 2003, from the City of Ojai, requesting copies of all documents filed in this application and asking that it be included on the list of interested parties. In this application, while not subject to the entire general rate case analysis, the Ojai CSA is impacted by SCWC's proposal to increase rates for the allocation of general office costs for all customer service areas. SCWC is requesting rate increases for the Ojai CSA amounting to 4.35% for 2003, 2.10% for 2004, and 2.06% for 2005. The City of Ojai is opposed to its inclusion in this proceeding and notes that its residents already pay a rate for their water that far exceeds that for other utilities in the region and that the recorded rates of return by SCWC surpass Commission-authorized rates of return. The City of Ojai's request to be included as an interested party to this proceeding will be granted with the understanding that its participation will not alter this proceeding's already established scope and schedule.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The petition to intervene filed by the City of San Dimas is granted.
2. The request of the City of Ojai to be included as an interested party to this proceeding is granted.

3. The following names are to be added to the service list for this proceeding:

Kenneth Duran
City of San Dimas
245 E. Bonita Avenue
San Dimas, CA 91773
(909) 294-6214
kduran@ci.san-dimas.ca.us

Joe DeVito
City of Ojai
401 South Ventura Street
P.O. Box 1570
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 646-6859

4. Parties should provide a copy of all documents previously served in this proceeding to the City of Ojai.

5. If requested by the City of San Dimas, parties should provide a copy of all documents previously served in this proceeding.

Dated March 21, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DAVID K. FUKUTOME

David K. Fukutome
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling on Requests to Intervene on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated March 21, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KE HUANG

Ke Huang

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.